

Media Statement by Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens on the court-granted injunction and the illegal occupation of the Ambassador Bridge

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Media Statement by Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens released February 11, 2022.

Obviously, I'm pleased that the Court granted the injunction as a means to help bring about an end to the illegal occupation of the Ambassador Bridge. At the same time, I'm disappointed that it had to come to this.

I remain hopeful for a peaceful and negotiated resolution to the current blockade. Local, regional and national law enforcement will collaborate and coordinate how best to respond to this legal ruling and seek to re-open the Ambassador Bridge. No operational details will be disclosed, to ensure the safety and security of all involved.

I want to thank the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, as representative plaintiff, the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Attorney General of Ontario, who joined to support this cause. As was made clear in today's proceedings – the impact of the ongoing occupation is endangering the economic health of our region, Province and Country.

Over the past few weeks, we have all been gripped by the protest activity occurring across Canada. As these demonstrations in Ottawa, Alberta and right here in Windsor have shown, there is a segment of our population who feel left behind as we have collectively fought this virus. To that end, as a nation, it is clear that we have a lot of healing to do, emerging from this public health nightmare.

Personally, I'm hopeful that this healing can begin tonight.

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Recognized as one of Canada's most diverse and multicultural communities, the City of Windsor was developed on land that is the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg people of the Three Fires Confederacy (Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa). Before Europeans arrived, the land along the Detroit River was referred to as Wawiatanong by the Indigenous populations. Due to Windsor's unique location along the Detroit River many different groups have called this area home including: Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron (Neutral), and Huron (Wyandot) peoples. Today, many indigenous people and Métis across Turtle Island call this area home.

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